

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 15 October 1992

## *The week in statistics ...*

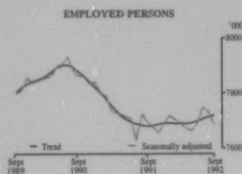
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## Full-time employment steady but participation rate falls sharply

Full-time employment (seasonally adjusted) was steady in September 1992 but both part-time employment and the participation rate fell sharply. Small decreases were recorded in the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate.

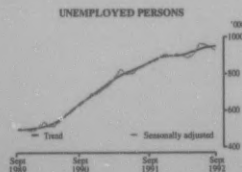
### Employment

The September 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,687,700, a fall of 43,800 since August 1992. Full-time employment was steady at 5,861,200. The number of males employed full time fell slightly to 3,991,100, while the number of females employed full time rose slightly to 1,870,100. Part-time employment fell for the first time in ten months, decreasing by 43,400 to 1,826,500. Males and females employed part time both fell in September, by 17,900 and 25,600 respectively. Trend estimates of total employment have shown small increases in each of the last six months. For full-time employment, the trend continues to decline, but at a slower rate in recent months.



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES  
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total — '000 —		
1992					
April	5,880.0	1,792.3	7,672.3	10.4	62.7
May	5,863.7	1,799.2	7,663.0	10.6	62.7
June	5,856.8	1,834.4	7,691.1	11.1	63.2
July	5,891.9	1,857.3	7,749.2	11.0	63.5
August	5,861.6	1,870.0	7,731.6	10.9	63.2
September	5,861.2	1,826.5	7,687.7	10.8	62.7



### Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for September 1992 was 927,700, a decrease of 19,800 compared with August and the third successive monthly fall. For males, unemployment fell by 13,900 to 565,900. Males seeking full-time and part-time work both fell, by 6,300 and 7,500 respectively. Female unemployment fell by 6,000 to 361,800 with a fall of 5,000 in the number of females seeking part-time work being the main component. Trend estimates of unemployed persons continue to increase, but at a slower rate in the last three months.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 1992 was 10.8 per cent, compared with 10.9 per cent in August. For males, the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 11.3 per cent. For females, the rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 10.0 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate continues to increase and now stands at 11.0 per cent. For males and females looking for full-time work, the trend unemployment rate has steadied. For males and females seeking part-time work, the trend unemployment rate has increased in each of the last five months.

Continued ...

## Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 62.7 per cent in September, a fall of 0.5 percentage points compared with August. For males, the rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 73.9 per cent. For females, the rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 51.8 per cent. The trend participation rate has been steady at 63.1 per cent since May 1992.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0), or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.

## Flat August result for retailers

Estimated turnover of retail and selected service establishments rose by just 0.1 per cent in August in seasonally adjusted terms. The slight increase in the seasonally adjusted estimate has resulted in a very weak growth rate in the trend estimates, averaging 0.1 per cent per month over the last three months. The annual growth rate (August 1992 over August 1991) is now 3.9 per cent.

The very weak growth rate has been brought about by the reduced performance of the five major industries included in the survey. Grocers, which previously were showing relatively strong growth, are now showing a weakening growth rate, averaging 0.6 per cent over the three months ended August. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs have improved slightly to show average growth of 0.4 per cent over the same three months. However the remaining three of the 'big 5', department stores, clothing and fabric stores and 'other' food stores are all showing decline in trend estimates of turnover.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in August 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended August 1992	12 months ended August 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,300	0.6	0.5
Butchers	194	0.9	0.6
Other food stores	520	-1.3	0.3
Total food group	3,014	0.3	0.5
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	925	0.4	0.0
Department and general stores	716	-0.8	0.1
Clothing and fabrics stores	497	-0.7	0.2
Electrical stores	404	-0.1	0.0
Pharmacies	326	0.8	0.2
Newsagents	266	-0.7	0.2
Other industries	1,319	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	7,465	0.1	0.3

Continued ...

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



The two largest States are showing no growth whilst the rate of growth is weakening in Queensland and Western Australia. Tasmania is the only State showing stable growth.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER  
Monthly percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust
1992								
April	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.6
May	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.3	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.4
June	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.5	0.3	0.5	-0.1	0.2
July	-0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.6	0.3	0.4	-0.1	0.1
August	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.5	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.1

For further information, order the publication Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0), or contact Bill Powell on (06) 252 6132.

## Upper end boosts tourist accommodation market

Four star establishments led the way as the Australian tourist accommodation industry enjoyed significant growth in the year to June 1992.

The number of rooms available in hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities, increased by 3.9 per cent between June quarter 1991 and June quarter 1992, with only the Australian Capital Territory recording a significant decrease in capacity (2.2%).

Room nights occupied increased by 5.9 per cent during the period and the room occupancy rate rose by 0.9 percentage points to 48.5 per cent.

Rooms available in 'four star' hotels, motels and guest houses increased by 15.8 per cent, while room nights occupied increased by 24.7 per cent, resulting in a 3.9 percentage point rise in the 'four star' occupancy rate to 55.3 per cent.

Nationally, guest arrivals increased by 5.4 per cent, with only Tasmania and the Northern Territory recording decreases. Guest arrivals for the Australian Capital Territory rose by a very substantial 45.0 per cent. Australia wide, the average length of stay remained steady at 2.0 days.

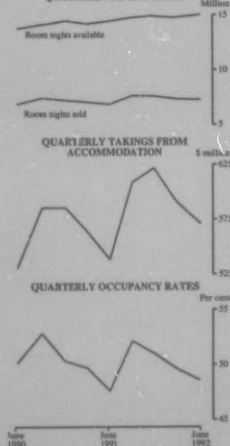
Takings from accommodation increased by 6.0 per cent to \$570.9 million, while the average takings per room night was unchanged at \$79.

For holiday flats, units and houses Australia wide, the number of units available for short-term letting increased by 2.6 per cent while unit nights occupied rose by 3.3 per cent resulting in a marginal occupancy rate increase to 42.0 per cent. Accommodation takings increased by 8.9 per cent over the same period last year.

For caravan parks, total capacity rose by only 0.8 per cent, site nights occupied increased by 2.3 per cent and the occupancy rate rose by 0.5 percentage points to 33.5 per cent. Takings from accommodation increased by 7.6 per cent.

Continued ...

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION  
Hotels, motels and guest houses  
QUARTERLY ROOM NIGHTS



Visitor hostels (backpacker establishments) recorded a bed occupancy rate of 42.4 per cent in June quarter 1992 and takings from accommodation of \$10.7 million.

**TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**  
Hotels, motels and guest houses

	June quarter		Percentage change
	1991	1992	
Rooms available ('000)	159	165	3.9
Room nights occupied ('000)	6,843	7,247	5.9
Room occupancy rate (%)	47.6	48.5	n.a.
Guest arrivals ('000)	5,974	6,299	5.4
Average length of stay (days)	2.0	2.0	0.0
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	539	571	6.0

For further information, order the publication *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (8635.0), or contact John Alexander on (07) 222 6215.

## Women at work — a new perspective

Neither systematic discrimination nor family situations such as caring for young children are behind the significant difference between women's workforce attainments and those of men, according to an academic analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data.

Instead, the study finds, the tendencies of females to spend less time in education and to have shorter workforce experience than males are the main factors influencing the different occupational distributions of the sexes.

These conclusions are reached in one of two occasional papers produced by Dr Graeme Vaughan as a result of his work with the ABS under the Research Statistician Scheme. This scheme is designed to encourage greater use of ABS data in academic and other research, the development of new techniques for data analysis and more research generally into problems relevant to the work of the Bureau.

Dr Vaughan's papers on *Sex Differences in Occupational Attainment* and *Birthplace Differences in Occupational Attainment* were published recently by the ABS.

After exhaustive analysis of data from the 1986 Census, Dr Vaughan concludes in his *Sex Differences* paper that there was no evidence for the 'ideology of gender' hypothesis that women attain less skilled jobs because of traditional sex role differentiation.

The paper also states that controlling Dr Vaughan's analytical model for family situation variables (marital status, children, age of youngest child) made no difference to the relationship between gender and occupation.

It found that at higher levels of educational attainment, the differences between male and female workforce attainment began to disappear, especially when women had also acquired lengthy experience at work.

**YEARS OF EDUCATION**  
Percentage

Years of education	Males	Females
14 and over	12.64	13.32
13	21.79	2.32
12	24.34	33.49
11	13.44	18.37
10	15.54	21.17
Less than 10	12.26	11.32
Total	100.00	100.00

**LABOUR MARKET EXPERIENCE**  
Percentage

Years	Males	Females
35 and over	17.22	6.30
25 to 34	17.84	13.94
15 to 24	25.32	26.48
5 to 14	28.47	38.66
0 to 4	11.15	14.63
Total	100.00	100.00

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order  
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- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

(06) 252 6627  
(06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

In both papers the author stresses that his research was conducted using the major groups level of definition in the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations. Further, his measure of occupational attainment was based on skill levels, and bore no necessary relationship to such factors as status, income or power.

These limits may have implications for his findings. For example, the author notes that at the major groups level, he found no great difference between the proportions of women and men in the professional and para-professional occupations, both these groups include (respectively) teachers and nurses — two occupations in which women have long been concentrated.

For further information, order the publications Occasional Paper: Census 86 — Birthplace Differences in Occupational Attainment (6282.0) and Occasional Paper: Census 86 — Sex Differences in Occupational Attainment (6283.0), or contact Melanee Short on (06) 252 6111.

## All the week's releases: 7 to 13 October

### General

Year Book Aust., 1992 (1301.0; \$69.00)  
Statistics Weekly, 8 October 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)  
Economic Indicators, Vic., September 1992 (1307.2; \$6.50)

### Social statistics

National Health Survey: Health Related Actions, 1989-90 (4375.0; \$100.00) — *new issue*  
National Health Survey: Consultations With Health Professionals, 1989-90 (4376.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*  
National Health Survey: Use of Medications, 1989-90 (4377.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*  
National Health Survey: Screening for Breast and Cervical Cancer, 1989-90 (4378.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*  
National Health Survey: Children's Immunisation, 1989-90 (4379.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, August 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)  
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., August 1992 (5635.0; \$6.00)  
Lease Finance, Aust., July 1992 (5644.0; \$6.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., September 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)  
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, September 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)  
Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., August 1992 (6312.0; \$11.00)  
Industrial Disputes, Aust., June 1992 (6321.0; \$10.00)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., August 1992 (6415.0; \$10.50)  
The Labour Force, NSW, August 1992 (6201.1; \$16.00)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, August 1992 (7204.3; \$5.00)

### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Mineral Production, Aust., 1990-91 (8405.0; \$21.00)  
Retail Trade, Aust., August 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)  
Tourist Accommodation, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (8635.0; \$20.00)  
Building Activity, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (8752.0; \$14.00)  
Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (8782.0; \$10.50)  
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, June Qtr 1992 (8635.1; \$20.00)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, May 1992 (8741.1; \$10.50)  
Building Activity, NSW, June Qtr 1992 (8752.1; \$10.50)  
Building Approvals by Statistical Local Areas, Vic. — Small Area Summary Data Reports, 1991-92 (8733.2; \$8.00)

Continued ...

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## Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

Census of Mining Establishments: Details of Operations by Industry Subdivision, Qld, 1989-90 (\$401.3; \$10.00)

Estimated Stocks of Dwellings, WA, June 1992 (\$705.5; \$19.00)

Tourist Accommodation, Tas., June Qtr 1992 (\$635.6; \$20.00)

Building Approvals, Tas., August 1992 (\$731.6; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., July 1992 (\$741.6; \$5.00)

Building Activity, Tas., June Qtr 1992 (\$752.6; \$10.50)

## Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., August 1992 (\$303.0; \$10.50)

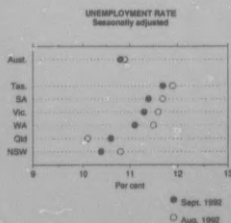
## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 27 October 1992

- 14** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, August 1992 (\$609.0; \$10.50)
- 16** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, August 1992 (\$407.0; \$10.50)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1992 (\$408.0; \$8.00)
- 19** Export Price Index, Australia, August 1992 (\$405.0; \$8.00)
- 21** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, August 1991 (\$412.0; \$10.50)
- 22** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, August 1992 (\$411.0; \$10.50)  
Import Price Index, Australia, August 1992 (\$414.0; \$8.00)
- 26** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, September 1992, Preliminary (\$301.0; \$10.50)
- 27** Manufacturing Production, Australia, September 1992, Preliminary (\$301.0; \$10.50)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
13 October 1992



Statistics Weekly  
15 October 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92) <sup>†</sup>	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Aug. 92) (trend estimate)	3.6	2.9	6.9	-3.6	6.5	6.0	n.a.	4.5	3.9
New motor vehicle registrations (Aug. 92) <sup>†</sup>	-0.3	24.8	20.1	2.2	16.8	8.0	16.9	-33.3	10.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Aug. 92) <sup>†</sup>	2.0	22.8	22.6	-2.2	21.5	-6.4	11.9	47.4	12.0
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Sept. 92) <sup>*</sup>	-0.3	-1.8	2.7	0.5	0.9	-2.9	-2.1	1.3	-0.1
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92)	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 13 October 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	July 92	7,861	7,973	0.6	4.0
— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 92	15,253	15,785	1.6	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Aug. 92	44,554	45,363	4.7	10.2
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Aug. 92	13,528	13,374	-3.4	14.1
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,762	1,782	-4.1	2.6
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778.2	5,795.0	-0.4	-8.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,754.4	3,763.4	-0.3	-6.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	June qtr 92	35,445	35,599	1.1	3.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	24,478	24,601	1.2	3.1
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons	'000	Sept. 92	7,759.9	7,687.7	-0.6	-0.1
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.7	10.8	-0.1	0.6
Participation rate †	"	"	63.2	62.7	-0.5	-0.6
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		June qtr 92	107.3	n.a.	-0.3	1.2
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		July 92	126.2	n.a.	1.3	4.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		July 92	113.2	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-4.6	45.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	July 92	5.55	n.a.	-0.85	-4.55
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.30	n.a.	-0.60	-2.70
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Aug. 92	4,679	4,706	-2.2	1.6
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-4,525	-4,368	-11.1	15.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-154	338	n.a.	-60.9
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-125	110	n.a.	-84.4
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,104	-903	-38.8	-61.8
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
\$US	per \$A	Aug. 92	0.7258	n.a.	-2.6	-7.2
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	53.1	n.a.	-2.9	-12.1
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	July 92	219	223	3.0	6.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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